

A brief Historical 976  
RELATION

Of the Empire of

RUSSIA.

AND

Of its Original Growth

OUT OF

24 Great Dukedomes,

INTO

One entire Empire,

Since the year 1514.

Humbly presented to the view and serious  
perusal of all true-hearted English-men,  
that love and honour the peace and hap-  
piness of this their native Country.

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*J. L. g.* By *J. F.*

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London, Printed by *J. C.* for *William Law,* at the  
Blackmoors head near Fleet-bridge. 1654.

A. D. 1811

REMAISON

RUSSIA

Original Growth



Imperial Library

1811



READER,

**T**He clear Fountain of pure Justice, Judgement, and Mercy, springing forth in its clear and free current, to all degrees of men without respect of persons, is that which truly advances a Nation, brings glory to God, peace to the mindes of a distempered people, and true honour and safety to the Supreme Ruler, who thereby becomes embraced by all in the arms of Love, and born upon their hands of Safety, and most freely on all occasions supplied with their gifts of bounty.

The impartial observation and administration of this, by Borice the Elected Emperour of Russia, made him so famous, and ingraued him so deep in the hearty affection of all the people, as that they accounted

counted themselves more happy and safe  
in him, then in him or them whose right  
by birth at that time the Empire was; as  
in the following Story will appear.

It was the impregnable Staff of Justice and Mercie, by which like a Shepherd he led the people, and by which, like a most valiant Champion, he quell'd and beat down to the ground all his enemies, and all that ever dared in the least to oppose or appear against him. It was This, that became a Wall of Peace and Safety to him, and an unexpressible happiness to that Nation, during the whole time of his happy Reign.

This happiness from my soul I wish and desire may ever attend him, whom God hath at present placed over us, and by whom, as by a second Joshua, the Lord hath done great things, and hath brought mighty things to pass for us; yea, such, as all our Chronicles, and all the Stories of Europe and Asia cannot parallel.

For which select Instrument, duty bindes us to return glory and praise to  
God,

God, and to beg, that the Lord in mercy  
to this Nation would keep his heart  
close to himself, causing him to walk  
close to the Lord by the impartial  
Rules of Justice, Judgement, and  
Mercy; knowing in some measure,  
by his own expressions, that it is the  
desire of his soul so to do; even to walk  
close with the Lord, and humbly with his  
God.

But methinks I hear some Christians  
say, That they dare not approve of  
these high Titles of Honour to be at-  
tributed, seeing they do not reap the  
fruits of Liberty and Justice accord-  
ing to the Reformation promised, for  
that they still see Iniquity, Bondage,  
and Oppression, to bear the sway;  
the dens of Cruelty upheld; the Law  
streaming forth in as corrupt a dela-  
tory chargeable current as before;  
the Adversaries encouraged, and  
his and this Nations true Friends  
flighted.

My answer and humble Christian de-  
sire to all such shall be onely this, That they  
would be pleased to possess their souls in  
patience: wait upon the Lord, and doubt-  
less ere long their eyes shall see and behold  
the salvation of God, deliverance wrought,  
yea mighty things brought to pass by him,  
(seeing now the Lord hath been pleased to  
put the power into his hand.) For it can-  
not enter into my heart to think or believe,  
that ever his Highness, for whom the Lord  
hath done so great things, (and if this be  
not enough, will yet do greater things) should  
so far dishonour God, and himself,  
and all that have taken part with him,  
(by putting their hand unto the Work) as  
to suffer these Norman evils to continue;  
or that ever he should fall off from the  
plow Rules of Justice, Charity, and Love;  
so far, as to slight those his friends, who  
have ever been faithful to him; and this  
their native Country; and have suffered  
for him. Surely, Grace and Goodness  
attacheth him, who in mercy sanctified  
therewith, far better things; and will  
enable



enable him to bring that to pass, and  
much more, mangre all his and this Na-  
tions enemies. Therefore let us not re-  
sist, lest we be found fighting against God:  
and let him but keep close unto the Lord  
his God, and then go on and prosper. I  
say as I said long before, Go on, and pro-  
sper.

Now the God of all grace, mercy, and  
peace, who hath bound up his life in the  
bundle of his grace, sanctifie him thorow-  
out by his holy Spirit, perfect his work  
by him, and by him make bare the arm  
of his mighty power for us, against all  
the potent enemies of this Nation, who  
threaten his and our destruction, and this  
Nation's ruine; and cause his Highness  
still to be the Lord's powerful victorious  
threshing-instrument upon his and this  
Nations enemies, as also the Lords hap-  
pie instrument of justice and mercy to the  
people of God, and to all the poor, distres-  
sed, oppressed, and enslaved; to the wi-  
dom, the fatherless, and strangers, in this  
A 4 Land;

Land; that so his fame may ring thron-  
out the world, and his name become as a  
sweet odour in the nostrils of all men.

All which are, and ever shall be, the  
constant addresses to the throne of grace  
in that behalf, for him, and the most  
heartly desires of

His Highness and this Common-  
wealths most humble and faith-  
ful servant in the Lord,  
during life,



J. F.



Most

*Most honorable, and Truly honored,  
and Beloved in the Lord Jesus :*

**I** He Lord having caused me, in the days of this my Pilgrimage, even from my youth up, to taste both of sweet and bitter waters, to partake in forraign and domestick Princes Courts, abundance of Prosperity, and in my own Country the like measure of bitter Adversity, for these fourteen or fifteen yeers past.

In which my days of travel, and residence at home some part of the Raign of the two late Kings of *England*, I was diligent to note and observe the most remarkable passages presenting themselves to my Genius, and in special some, which happened in the vast and potent Empire of *Russia*, (to some of which passages I was an eye-witness.)

Of which, as also of the original rise and growth of those people of *Russia* to one entire

entire Empire, I have been often, for many years past, by many solicited to make some brief description or relation. In answer therefore now to their earnest desires, and according to my best intelligence, I have adventured to set pen to paper, for their further satisfaction, in brief, as followeth.

The people now called *Russians*, or *Moscovites*, are said to be originally descended from the ancient *Scythians*; and those of them now called *Belarussians*, are said to be descended from the *Ruthenians*, whose chief City then was *Novagradia*; and the *Ruthenians* principal City was then called *Wolodeemer*; who upon the incursions made by *Tamerlain* the great Cham of the *Tartarians* into those several parts, many thousands of them were scattered or lown abroad into the remotest parts, and coldest climates of that vast Continent, and thereupon intitled themselves *Ras-sejans*, which signifieth, A people lown abroad upon the face of the earth.

The people, in process of time, divided themselves into four and twenty several Dukedoms; and so continued, until the year 1514.

At which time, *John Basilions Cherkaske* the



the then-Duke of *Volodeemer*, most subtilly contrived and raised a discord amongst all the Dukes of *Russia*; by means whereof, they having weakened and destroyed one another, the said *John Basilions* within very few years gained the Conquest of them altogether with the Kingdoms of *Cazan*, *Ussrahian*, *Chorelia*, and *Siberia*; and uniting them into one entire Empire, he was in the year 1524 declared and crowned Emperour of *Russia*, placing his Imperial Throne in the City of *Mosco*, the then chief City of the Dukedom of *Moscovia*; where it remaineth to this day.

In his days, the Cham of the grim *Tartars* invaded *Russia* with an Army of Four hundred thousand men, besieged the Imperial City of *Mosco* some three months, burnt and spoiled all the Country many hundred miles in compass; and upon his departure, he required Homage of the Emperour; which was, That the Emperor of *Russia* should come forth of the City of *Mosco* on foot, attended by his Princes and Nobles of *Russia*, bare-headed; and that the Emperour should then bring Oats in his Cap, and present them to the Cham of *Tartary* his horse, (he himself then sitting upon his horse-back) and to feed the  
of his horse

(4)

horse out of his Cap: All which, for the saving of the lives of many thousands of his people, and utter devastation of his Empire, the Emperour performed, feeding the great Cham of *Tartary*'s horse with Oats out of his own Cap, or Colpack.

This Homage being performed, the Cham of *Tartary* stroaked the Emperour of *Russia* three times on the face and beard, presented him with a Cymiter, and a Bowe and Case of Arrows, and so departed, carrying many thousands captive.

This *John Bazilions* the Emperour, towards his latter days, grew a mighty Tyrant, delighting much in blood, causing many of his Nobles (on the least occasion) to run themselves upon their own swords, to be thrown alive unto Bears, Wolves, and Lions: some he caused (both men and women) to be tyed to spits, and roasted alive, till they died; some to be torn asunder by horses: and many other unexpressible inhumane cruelties were by him practised; who, after he had (like a second *Herod*) reigned 35 years, (being very aged) he died of a Dropsie; at which time

*A Note found of 17 persons by him appointed for death.* there was a Note of the names of seventeen persons under his pillow, appointed to die.

To

(5)

To him succeeded his son *Theodor*, who being of a shallow capacity, and from his youth addicted to blinde devotion, and ringing of bells, did thereby neglect the great affairs of the Empire, whereby the people, though acquitted from his father the Tyrant, yet their burthens of Contention and Oppression by his folly increased. They then, by and upon their humble Petition to the Emperour, and by his consent and permission, chose the then-Lord General of the Imperial Army, (*Borice Fedorowick Godoonow*.) Lord Protector of the Empire; who (though illiterate) was a man endowed with many excellent natural parts, being of a deep judgement, a strong memory, and of a discerning spirit, endowed with much sageness; being also a great lover of Justice: the last of these, crowned all the rest of his vertues, raising him high in the hearty affections of the people, so that to this day his fame rings thorow all that vast Empire, (like that of Queen *Elizabeth* in this Nation.)

By him were all their exorbitant abuses of their Law regulated, and brought to their pristine condition: all the Provincial Vayvodes and Chancellors were (for acts of injustice and oppression) severely punished

(6)  
ed in their persons, and by their estates  
*Note this well.* compelled to yeeld satisfac-  
tion to all parties by them  
wronged by false Judgement. The long-  
usurped power of all the Arch-bishops,  
Bishops, Priests and Friars, in Secular af-  
fairs, quite extinguished. And by fear  
and terrour of punishment without respect  
of persons, Justice in its purity was com-  
pelled from the corruptest persons in Au-  
thority; which forced also the greatest re-  
fractory persons formerly in power, to  
vail and crouch before the Lord Protector,  
seeing the peoples affections thereby be-  
come as a wall of brasse for his safety and  
preservation from their secret plottings of  
his destruction, (by shooting their secret  
arrows of detraction abroad, to his defa-  
mation) for which, many of them, not long  
after, by his impartial hand of Justice were  
made exemplary.

Thus, after the Emperour *Theodor* had  
possessed the Imperial Diademe 15 years,  
he died in the Imperial Palace at *Mosco*,  
1566. At which time, the Lord Protector  
*Borise* retiring to the Maiden Monastery,  
seemed to resolve the leading of a Mona-  
stick life, and to wave the Government of  
that great Empire; which occasioned his  
secret



his enemies (though before, seeming friends) to display their Banners of reviling speeches against him, endeavouring both by themselves and their instruments to render him odious to the people. Yea, many of his own servants appeared then in their colours; which afterwards caused many of their heads to cleave to the block.

For, the Souldiery, over whom he still remained as Lord General during the time of his Protectorship, and the Commonalty (whose affections he had gained by acts of Justice and Mercy, exercised by him without fear or flattery) did all unanimously make their repair to him to the said Maiden Monastery, and there openly declaring his Paternal care, and prudential disposing of the affairs of that vast Empire, with all the several conquered parts thereof, in the days of their late Emperour *Theodor Ewangeliche*, did press upon him the acceptance of the Imperial Diademe. Upon whose acceptation, they forthwith declared him for their Emperour: and soon after his repair to the Imperial Palace, he was with very great magnificence and acclamation of the people, crowned Emperour of *Russia*; being a Gentleman of an humble spirit,  
con-

constant in his resolutions, and carried always an open ear to the complaints of all poor and oppressed persons, doing them speedy justice. His custom was to sit three days in the fore-noons with his Privie Council, and in the afternoons to hear and answer Petitions; causing his Orders and References always to be drawn up in his own presence; punishing all Chancellors and other Officers for their corrupt and partial dealing, and for their slighting of his Decrees, and falsifying of his Orders and References.

He also called all the Provincial Judges and Chancellors to a strict account yearly, and most impartially heard all mens complaints against them: and such as were found corrupt and faulty, he punished severely in their persons, and by their estates compelled them to give full satisfaction to all persons by them wronged in Judgment, or any ways oppressed or defrauded.

He carried also a vigilant eye over all the Lords of his Privie Council; so that none of them durst tread out of the path of Impartial Justice, either for reward, favour or affection, to any of their neereſt allies, or dearest friends.

He also ordered the determination of all

all Controversies and Suits in Law to be within 40 days; and the charges of a Suit in Law not to exceed a *Greevna*, which is 12 d. English: viz. 4 d. for the Citation, 4 d. for the Warrant, and 4 d. for a copie of the Decretal Order.

And for any one that had commenced a false and vexatious Suit against any, he was to pay treble damages, and to suffer the like punishment which he intended thereby to have inflicted upon the person by him unjustly troubled. *Pure Justice.*

O what happiness, what reace, what concord, would such a course of Justice produce here in England!

And for the sale of houses and land of Inheritance, he ordained a book to be kept in every Province, called, *The everlasting book*, (or, as here in England it was called formerly, when the practice of the Law ran in its pure current, *The Doomsday-book*), which is there continued to this present. By which means, all vexatious Suits, unjust Claims, and all Frauds, are prevented. The people there, cannot mortgage nor sell their Land, Houses, nor Leases, two or three times over, to several persons; as usually here in England: nor

is any there cheated of their Patrimonies, nor constrained to sell or mortgage their lands or goods, or both, to maintain a long and tedious Suit in Law, by giving content to their insatiable Cormorant-Lawyers, Attorneys, Solicitors, as we do here in *England*; where the recovery of a debt of 20 *l.* hath cost some men above 200 *l.* in Law. Yea, some thousands of families have been ruined in defence of their rights, by the present abusive practise of the Law.

Neither have they there (nor in any Country under the whole heavens, but in cruel *England*) any murdering dens and dungeons of cruelty for imprisoning men and women for debt, till they starve and die in prison: (contrary to our own ancient Statutes yet in force. See the book intitled, *Liberty vindicated against Slavery*, fol. 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13. 25 *Edw.* 3. chap. 4. 21 *Edw.* 3. D. 170. 13 *Edw.* 3. B. 153. 8 *Hen.* 4. chap. 18, 26. 34 *Edw.* 1. chap. 4. 15 *Hen.* 6. chap. 16. *Magna Chart.* chap. 35. *Westm.* 1. ch. 16. 3 *Edw.* 1. ch. 26. 25 *Edw.* 3. chap. 4.

Nor is there, any arrested nor imprisoned upon frivolous, false, and vexatious Accusations, unjust Orders, Reports and Decrees daily



daily, as they are here in *England*. Nor is there any such Horse-leeches to suck the vital blood of men and women committed to their custody into Gaols and Prisons, as we have here. For all which unpardonable cruelties, doubtles the wrath and vengeance of God will ere long fall heavie upon the Nation, if not remedied, according to the severall Vowes, Protestations, Declarations, and Manifestos, made to God and this Nation many yeers since, both by Parliament and rmy.

In this most noble, just, and famous Emperours days, the cruel, the mighty, nor the oppressing Miser, durst not wrong nor oppress the poor, the widow, the fatherless, nor the stranger. The Judges and Chancellors durst not step aside out of the strait path of Justice, for money, favour, nor affection: witneis that exemplary just Sentence of his passed on the Chancellor of the Province of *Rezane*, who for 100 Robles bribe, (which is 50 *l.*) had most unjustly decreed a poor widows Land of Inheritance from her: whereof proof being by her made to the Emperour, the Lord Chancellor was by him degraded, and sentenced to have the like bag of money hang'd about his neck, and to be whipped by

by the common Hang-man, from the great Chancery-Office to the Market-place, and back to the said Office ; there the money to be melted, and poured down his throat. All which was done accordingly.

O if this pure Justice and Mercy were exercised here in *England*, how unexpressibly would it elevate his Highness in the affections of all the people, and engrave him in their hearts ! whereby he would then become like to the famous Queen *Elizabeth*, who upon any motion abroad from her Palace, had many thousands attending on the high-ways to congratulate her with their loyalty, and loud acclamations sent up to heaven for her Majesties long life, health, and prosperity.

In her days there is said to be but one Serjeant at Law, at the Common-Pleas bar, (called, Serjeant *Benlowes*) who was ordained to plead both for the Plaintiff and Defendant ; for which he was to take ten Groats of each party, and no more : and to manifest his impartial dealing to both parties, he was therefore to wear a party-coloured garment, and to have on his head a black Cap of impartial Justice, and under it a white linen Coyf of Innocencie. All which was in the days of King *James*, turned

ned to Injustice, Oppression, and Bribery. Serjeants were by him made in abundance; and a Serjeants place was then sold for 800 /. but in the days of the late King, the price of Iniquity was raised to 1500 /. who at one time made thirteen Serjeants at Law.

I will wade no further into this sea of Wickedness, lest some of the old stamp, and long Robe, should finde themselves agrieved; but resolve to return to the matter in hand.

The like punishment was by this famous Emperour most justly inflicted upon the Great Lord Chancellor of *Mosco*; who for passing an unjust Decree, was degraded and whipped, and had thirty lashes, by the common Hang-man, upon the *Cozoel*, or wooden Gate, before his own Office.

The like was by him inflicted on the Vayvode or Governour of *Vasema*, who for injustice and oppression was also whipped, and his estate decreed to satisfy the persons by him wronged.

I would instance many more the like acts of Justice which flowed from that truly-magnanimous Prince; as also, how the subtil-deceitful knot of a number of grand oppressors was by him broken; who by

their subtil contrivances, in and by their accustomed corrupt practices, in and by their Law, had enslaved the Nation to their corrupt wills, and ruined thousands of families: But I hope, that little that hath been related, is sufficient for any to take consideration of, and to make it their own most honourable practical example; to the glory of God, the good of this Nation, and their own eternal honour.

And thus after the poor oppressed man's Patriot, even this famous Emperour, had happily reigned 36 years, he departed this life: whose death was much lamented by all the people for many years: to whom succeeded his son *Theodore*, who being about 17 years old, reigned but six months.

In whose time, one *Demetrius* (who from his youth being brought up in the Free-School of *Warsovia* in *Poland*) gave himself out, and was credibly said to be the son of *John Bazilious* the first Emperour; who having married *Marinca* the eldest daughter of *Sandomerskee*, one of the Electors of *Poland*, was by *Sigsismundus* King of *Poland* supplied with 20000 horse; who thereupon entered this great Empire of *Russia* with an Army of 240000 horse, encountered with the Emperours' great Host  
con-



consisting of 50000 horse and 150000 foot, and after four severall set Barrels, he overthrew this great Imperial Host, march'd up to the Imperial City, and after Summons (causing the young Emperour *Theodor* to be strangled) he entred the City; and being forthwith crowned *Cesar*, or Emperour, he possessed the Imperial Diademe 28 months.

He was a Gentleman very comely of personage, active of body, and a great Scholar, highly affecting the English, Germane, and Polonian Nations; being also himself, for his valour and generosity of spirit, greatly beloved of all his victorious Army. But coming to possess the Imperial Throne, and the glory thereof, he gave himself up to all maner of delightful pastimes, referring the management of all State-affairs to his Privie Council: and being wholly led by his chief Secretary *Panno Boechinskee*, he confined his ear to the said *Boechinskee*, and some other few Polonian Flatterers and Parasites about him; receiving also into favour some of the Russian Nobility, and conferring places of Honour and Trust upon them, hoping thereby to win and endear them to himself; who notwithstanding became as sting-

ing Serpents in his bosome, and proved the fatal instruments of his ruine.

But that which proved most advantageous to his enemies, and fatal to himself, was, his not admitting any into his presence, (as that famous Emperour *Borice* with all freeness used to do) but such onely as those Parasites and Flatterers pleased to admit, for affection, favor, or reward; & stopping his ears against the cries of the poor oppressed Petitioners, he neglected to answer their Petitions: whereby, the hearts of the people were exasperated against him. The reins of injustice, tyranny & oppression were let loose to all oppressors; the Lords of his Council acted by the Rule of their own wills; his Secretary *Boochinskee* became lawless and graceless: none durst prefer a complaint against him. Every one of these his Flatterers made hay for themselves, whilst the prosperous sunshine of his Majesties Imperial favour displayed his rayes upon them, without any real affection, or conscientious care in them for his Majesties honour and safety: the fruit whereof proved, not long after, to be the fatal loss of their own lives, and great estates so impiously gained.

For, the irreconcilable old Imperial  
subtil

subtil Nobility, Gentry, Chancellors, and  
 Clergie, having ingratiated themselvs with  
 him, did by their instruments (at a distance  
 incessantly in secret) render the Emperour  
 odious to the people, and guilty of all those  
 grievous burthens of Injustice and Op-  
 pression, which by their own unjust com-  
 plotted practices they had laid upon the  
 people; whereby they most subtilly accom-  
 plished their diabolical end, which was,  
 the untimely destruction of his Royal per-  
 son, by the cruel hands of *Basilus Shuskee*,  
 one of the reconciled Nobility, who not  
 long before, for some treacherous practice,  
 had his head upon the Block; yet the  
 Emperour in his clemencie pardoned him:  
 who not long after, through the inter-  
 cession of some of the Russian Lords, was  
 made a Privie Councillor, whereby he was  
 the better enabled to compass his resolved  
 barbarous designe, which was, the cruel  
 destruction of the Emperours person, and  
 of the lives of all his victorious Army,  
 consisting then of 25000 valiant men, be-  
 ing all Polonian, Germane, and Hungarian  
 Horse, who were all of them massacred the  
 same day, and their houses rifled; their  
 wives and children exposed to misery, and  
 very many of them cruelly butchered by  
 the

the rude multitude within the City of *Mosco*: which inhumane act caused a Sea of blood to have its current thorow many of the streets within the said City.

Thus the glory of this victorious Heroick spirit, was extinguished in one day: and all that truly adhered unto him, suffered with him, both in their estates and lives, about the 20 of *May*, 1604.

*Basilius* having thus butchered this gallant Prince, and removed all obstacles, by destroying the Army, he was proclaimed Emperour of *Russia*, (by *Mighaylo Scopeene* General of the Russian Army) and speedily after, crowned: who being scarce warm in the Imperial Throne, began forthwith to display the Banner of Tyranny, in restoring the covetous Clergie to their former power and jurisdiction in Secular affairs; and most perfidiously, contrary to his oath and promise made to the people at the time of his election, he loosed the reins of injustice and oppression to all the Vayvodes and Provincial Chancellors, and began to lay great Taxes on the people; and, like *Richard* the third of *England*, he beheaded some who were the primary instruments of placing the Imperial Diademe on his head, causing also *Mighaylo Scopeene* the General  
of



of the Imperial Army to be secretly destroyed by poyson. Which acts of his, rendered him odious to all degrees of men, exasperated the spirits of the Nobility against him, and alienated the hearts of all the people from him; and chiefly, for that their grievances were not heard, nor their burthens of oppression taken off, in all the six yeers time of his Reign; which at length emboldened the Nobility and Merchants of the City, with a resolute spirit, to lay hold of him, (wherein a Citizen, one *Theodor Andronave* was a prime actor) who gagged him, bound him fast in a Sled, and sent him post prisoner unto *Sigismundus* King of *Poland*, laying to his charge the murdering of their late Emperour *Demetrius*: who being arrived at *Warsovia* in *Poland*, he was ordered to safe custody, where he ended his days most miserably, in the year of Christ 1510.

The Nobility and flattering Clergie forthwith proceed in electing *Uladislaus*, the King of *Poland*'s eldest son, for their Emperour; who thereupon sent one *Panne Zolteskee* with 10000 Horse, to take and keep possession for him: upon whose arrival into the Imperial City of *Mosco*, the Citizens made some opposition; but were soon

soon appeased by the Lords of the Council. The Polish General thereupon gained a greater strength into the City, which caused several tumults; the Lords thereupon caused all the Citizens to be disarmed, and but one hatchet left to every three houses to cleave their wood: which act did mightily enrage the Citizens against the Lords and Polesians.

*Zolieskee* well weighing the power of the Citizens, and weakness of his Army to keep possession of so vast a City, did thereupon administer an Oath of Loyalty to all his Souldiery, commanding them on the sixth day of the then-month of *May*, every one at one of the clock in the morning to fire their lodgings, and not to spare man, woman, nor childe: which was done accordingly, and above 130000 persons massacred, besides those that were burnt in their beds and houses.

Thus the buildings of that famous City (said then to be 26 miles in compass) were all turned into ashes in one day, except the three stone-walls environing each other at a very great distance, and the Emperours Palace, with some Monasteries, and other buildings of stone: but the fourth wall, which environed all the rest, together with  
the

the suburbs without that wall, reaching above three miles in length, were all burned; the wall being all of massive timber, and earth.

But the unfavoury fruit of this their bloody Tragedie, was by the just hand of heaven returned into their own bosomes: for, the Country forthwith raised two mighty Armies under the conduct of the Lord Troobetscoy and the Lord Pazarskee, who besieged the Polonians in the City, close on every side, for the space of two yeers; and, through extreme famine, enforced the Polonians to yeeld up that famous Metropolitan City, and therewith the Prince of *Poland's* right to the Empire of *Russia*: so as of 35000 valiant men, there returned not twenty persons into *Poland*. Those few hundreds that yeelded up the City, coming once to plenty of victuals, died with meat in their mouths through meer weakness, having not tasted a bit of bread in six months before. In which Siege, a loaf of bread sometime was sold for a thousand Robles, which is 500 *l.* Sterling.

During the time of this cruel Siege, wherein I continued 22 months, being lodged in the Imperial Palace, several objects

jects of misery presented themselves to my sight and observation, from the besieged; as the eating of the flesh of horses, dogs, cats, and all sorts of leather, boyled in ditch-water; which served in stead of Tripes. But that which took most impression of grief upon my spirits, was, to see many Russian Ladies nobly descended, and brave young Gentlewomen, who not long before scorned that the moist earth should have touched the soles of their feet, were now become miserable, constrained to go bare-footed, and for food to prostrate themselves to every mean persons disposal; yea, when they were discarded by some, I have seen them with tears in their eyes profer their service to others, and all for a miserable livelihood: which then called to my remembrance this old saying, *Pride must have a fall*: and, *Hunger will break stone-walls*.

But after the famine grew very great, and all women, children, and aged persons turned out of the City, to the Russians, (who received them very courteously, ery much condoling their miserable conditions) there followed a very great judgement of God upon the Polonians, (obstinacie and hardness of heart) who all bound themselves



themselves by Oath, and receiving the Sacrament upon it, not to yeeld up the City to the Russians, so long as there was a man of them alive: which brought them to that extremity, that they by casting lots (who should die next, to maintain the rest alive) did devour one another, from 3000 to 400 persons. And at the surrender of the City, divers Commanders of the Russian Army seizing upon sundry large chests, conceiving them to be full of treasure, having them broken up, found in them nothing but the bodies of men slain for food to the living.

Upon the regaining of this Imperial City in 1612. forthwith followed the free election of *Mikhailo Theodorowiche*, (of the lineage of *Borise*, that famous Emperour) by the two National Armies, consisting of 13000 Horse and Foot; who was crowned the 5 of *August*, 1613.

This young Prince, for a time, walked in the path of that Princely myrrour of justice, *Borise*; under whose Government, (after a few yeers of trouble) the Nation enjoyed Halcyon days of peace and tranquillity, after the cessation of that long intestine War between the Emperors of *Russia* and *Charles Duke of Smedland*, and his son

son *Gustavus* the late King of *Swethland*; which was accomplished, and the Country of *Scythia* restored to the Russian, by the mediation of King *James*, and the indefatigable restless pains and travel of the truly-honorable sage States-man, Sir *John Merrick*, employed Lord Ambassador there, for that work, for the ipace of three yeers and eight months; who accomplished a League offensive and defensive between the two Crowns of *Russia* and *Swethland*, in 1617, which is since ratified, by the now-Emperour *Olexey Michaylowich*, and the Queen of *Swethland*.

This worthy States-man, Sir *John Merrick*, was by King *James* employed upon a second Embassie unto the said Emperour of *Russia*, in the yeer 1621. being accompanied by six Gentlemen of quality, (of whom *Robert Kelloway* Esq; was first in degree) and by 60 followers all in a rich Livery; who accomplished his Embassie with content to the King, and very great honour to himself and this Nation. In both which great Embassies, I had the honour to be with him, all the time.

Thus after this peaceable Emperour had reined 35 yeers, he died; to whom succeeded *Olexey* his son, who being yet of tender

tender years, and not knowing the great  
 and weighty causes and motives inducing  
 his Princely predecessors to grant that great  
 Charter of Free-trade unto the English  
 Company of Merchants thoroughout that  
 vast Empire, free of Custom, and all other  
 duties, hath (as is supposed) by the aggra-  
 vation of some Dutch Resident there, de-  
 prived the English of that Charter. But  
 now, I hope, upon better information and  
 apprehension of the constant love of the  
 English to his Majestie and that Nation,  
 and their readiness on all occasions from  
 time to time to serve and supply his prede-  
 cessors with all necessaries, even in the  
 times of their greatest straits, will be a suf-  
 ficient motive to him, most honorably and  
 freely to restore unto the English Mer-  
 chants the said Charter of Free-trade, and  
 will thereby manifest his Princely affection  
 to our victorious Chieftain, or *Cesar*, who  
 hitherto hath been the Lords thrashing-  
 instrument of terrour to all the potent and  
 raging enemies of this Nation, both by  
 land and sea. All which, the Dutch, as well  
 as others, have been made very sensible of,  
 and of which they above any others can  
 make a most true Narrative, (if they please)  
 to the glory of God, the honour of his  
 High-

Highness, and this nation, and to their own corrective instruction for the future; lest their insulring pride draw them down by a second Duke *d'Alva* to the gulf of destruction, and enforce them once again to intitle themselves to our *Cesar*; *The poor distressed States of the Netherlands*, as they did in the days of *Elizabeth Queen of England*, who purchased those United Provinces from the Spaniard, by the inestimable life-blood of more then 100000 English-men, besides Scots and Irish, and the expence of more then two millions of treasure: *Never to be fully satisfied by the worth of all the Netherlands.*

But if any shall be offended at these my foregoing expressions touching our present victorious Chieftain, (or *Cesar*) I shall humbly desire them to look back into the recorded transactions of all the Worthies in former ages, and see if they can (*comparatis comparandis*) balance those many several noble and victorious acts of his, with any of theirs, in the scale of Honour, and true Magnanimity, by him accomplished, in three famous Kingdoms, *viz. England, Scotland, and Ireland*, and all within the space of 3 or 4 yeers, without the least foil or repulse at any time by him received from his & this *Nation's* potent enemies. Where-



Wherein (in my judgment) he surpasses the *Romane Caesars*, the furious *Goths* and *Vandals*, the valiant *Scanderbeg* Prince of *Epirus*, the triumphant *Godfrey* of *Bullein*, and the victorious *Gustavus Adolphus* King of *Swethland*, who was the terror of *Germany*. And as the Lord in raising him up, hath thus by him brought home peace to every man's door in these three Nations, so I desire and wish from my soul, that with all due thankfulness he and we may return praises to his great and glorious Name for those his rich and abundant mercies by his his select instrument (*Oliverus*) conferred on us; it being the onely true way for the continuance of his showers of mercies on us; and, in stead of kicking against the pricks, to rest satisfied, and wait patiently upon the Lord, and then doubtles the salvation of God will appear: for, *he that believeth, maketh not haste.*

For that sacred Power that hath hitherto by him accomplished mighty things for us, will assuredly perfect his work, even his own great work; so that the enemies of God, and all that hate us, beholding it, shall stand amazed, & shall be enforced to confess and say, that *it is the Lords doings*, and *it is marvelous in their eyes.*

And when once, according to his sundry expressions at several times to that effect, he appears mighty in pulling down the strong holds of Satan, and advancing the thrones of Justice, Judgment, and Mercy, to the glory of God, the good of this Nation, and his own eternal praise, then shall his enemies be abashed, and *England's* enemies confounded; but on him shall the mercies of God flourish. For, it is Justice and Mercy exalts a Nation, and the administration thereof (without respect of persons) is the honour of a Nation, and of him that is the Head of the Nation. Witness those unalterable decrees of the *Medes and Persians*: and *Solomon* tells us, that the throne is established by justice, and upholden by mercy, Prov. 20. 28. For he that ruleth over men must be just, (honourable, and unalterable in his word and promise) ruling in the fear of God, 2. Sam. 23. 3. And he set judges in the land city by city, and said to the judges, Take heed what ye do: for ye judge not for man, but for the Lord, who is present with you in the judgment: for there is no iniquity nor respect of persons with the Lord, nor taking gifts. 2 Chron. 19. 5, 6, 7. This undoubtedly was the lesson which our just *Alfred* King of *England* gave to all the Com-

Judges and Chancellors in his days; and  
 this was the charge of that renowned Em-  
 perour *Berica*; and this, I hope, will be the  
 Rule and unalterable Charge of our victo-  
 rious *Cesar*: And in so doing, he shall as-  
 surely retain the favour of God, the love  
 of the whole Nation, and make his ene-  
 mies vanish like the smoke. *And so doing,*  
*you and prosper; the Lord shall give thee thine*  
*heart's desire.*

O that the Lord in mercy to this Nation  
 would turn the present tyrannous destru-  
 ctive Norman law of *England* into a law of  
 mercy & preservation to the people there-  
 of: that so they might not be thereby, in  
 their estates, rights, liberties, and lives,  
 daily sold, as sheep are in *Smithfield*  
 market; and by Bayliffs and Serjeants most  
 sorefully daily haled like dogs to several  
 dungeons of misery, from their families and  
 callings, and cruelly destroyed in prisons,  
 their estates by piecemeal torn and rent  
 from them for a trifle, and their wives and  
 children enforced to beg their bread: yea,  
 many poor hang'd for ten or twenty shil-  
 lings; whilst those that rob this Nation of  
 their estates, liberties, and lives, and that  
 by a Law, escape the halter.

Wherefore my most humble and earnest  
 suit

suit unto his Highness, the Lords threshing instrument) is, That he would be pleased to take seriously to heart the misery of this Nation, as good Nehemiah did, who accounted their misery his misery, their bondage his bondage, their flesh as his flesh, and their children as his children: And so, saith he) you suffer to be brought into bondage your sons and your daughters, causing thereby the enemies of God to blaspheme. Neh. 5. 5, 9. and the oppressed to groan under the burthen. The (works and) words of the wicked are to lie in wait for blood: but the mouth of the upright shall deliver the oppressed. Prov. 12. 6. And also seriously to consider the admonition of Solomon, saying, If thou forbear to deliver those that are baled to death, (or dungeons of death) and if thou sayst, Behold, I knew it not; doth not he that pondereth thy heart, and keeps thy soul, know it? And so of the Lords judgement denounced by Jeremiah against the Rulers of Judah, saying, Ye have not hearkned unto me, in proclaiming liberty every one to his brother, and every one to his neighbour; nor loosed the bands of wickedness, nor undone the heaue burdons, nor let the oppressed (nor enslaved) go free: Therefore will I proclaim liberty unto you, even to the sword, to the plague,



plague, and to the famine, Jer. 34. 17.

And do we not see the anger of the Lord kindled against us, by troubles abroad, jealousies at home, and fears on every side? Therefore take away the Cause, (which is, Injustice, Cruelty, and Oppression) and the Effect will cease assuredly. For *when* (in these things) *a mans ways please the Lord,* *his very enemies shall be at peace with him.*

If therefore the Lord, in mercy to his Highness and this Nation, be pleased to incline his heart to loose the bands of wickedness, (by abolishing the *Captives*) and to let the oppressed go free; to pull down the thrones of iniquity, and to break every yoke; Then shall his light break forth (to the Nation) as the morning, and his health shall then spring forth speedily: his righteousness shall then be his van-guard, and the glory of the Lord (in the power of his might) shall be his re-re-guard. For, blessed shall he be that considereth the cause of the poor, (especially those that are of upright heart) the Lord shall deliver him out of his enemies hands, and he shall be blessed upon the earth; yea, his enemies shall be destroyed: but he shall be established in righteousness, and his seed after him; if he despise not the counsel of the poor,

C 4

whose

whose trust is in the Lord; if he cleave  
not to the generation of cruel men, but  
ease this Nation of this cruel Norman  
bondage, and deliver the enslaved for debt  
out of the several dens of cruelty in this  
Land, causing speedy justice to have its free  
current without respect of persons, that to  
all that are oppressed and defrauded of  
their estates, lands, or goods, may gain  
speedy restitution with damage for false  
imprisonment, or detention of their estates  
unjustly.

All which once effected, will assuredly  
appease the wrath of God against these  
Nations, unite the hearts of all this great  
people to his Highness, as the heart of one  
man, and will enable him to go in and  
out before this great people in the strength  
of the Lord, and the power of his might,  
in peace and much safety, maugre all his  
enemies, and all that live to disturb his  
and this Nations peace. This will assu-  
redly bring glory to God, honour to his  
Highness, and tranquillity to the Nation:  
it will enforce (as in other Countries) ho-  
nesty and plain-dealing from all men, and  
all Periloggins, deceitful, subtil, oppressive  
persons, now throwed under the Norman  
Law, will vanish, and the words Peace,  
Quiet-

*Quarrel, and Industry, will be written o-*  
*ver every mans door.*

such noble acts will revive the memory  
 of *Alfred*, that just king of *England*, who  
 punished and hanged Four and forty  
 County Judges in one year, for oppres-  
 sing the people by false Judgement: and  
 of *Edward* the fourth, who caused Fifteen  
 Gaolers to be hanged in one year, for ex-  
 acting money from prisoners, and defrau-  
 ding them of the King's allowance of 4 d.  
*per diem*. And of *Henry* the fourth, who  
 caused Two and twenty Projectors, and six  
 Aldermen of *London* to be hanged at the  
 then place of Execution within *London*-  
 walls, and buried under the Gallows;  
 where since the Church is built, and the  
 place called *Alderman-bury*, to this day.

It was the usual saying of that famous  
 and just Emperour *Borice*, That Prince or  
 Ruler is most happy and safe, that liveth least  
 to himself, and most to the honour of God, and  
 the peoples good over whom God hath placed  
 him; and whose legal and just power is the  
 bounds of his will; whose olive-branch of wis-  
 dom springeth from his heart, bloometh on his  
 tongue, and beareth fruit in his actions; which  
 will always direct him not to refuse counsel  
 good cheap, lest *temerity* cause him to buy  
 repentance too dear.

Thus

Thus having (through my real hearty affection, and well-wishes to his Highness well-being, and love to my Countries freedom, peace, and tranquillity) digressed from my intended Historical Subject: and being desirous not to weary the Reader, but to draw to an end, I do again (in the close) become a most humble and earnest suitor to his Highness, in the name, and by the mercies of Jesus Christ, to let *judgement run down as water, and justice as a mighty stream*; that so Mercy may embrace him on every side, and cause him to continue in assured love and favour both with God and man, enjoying the good things of this Land in peace, (internal, and external) with abundance of glory to God, and honour to himself and posterity.

Not giving ear to the feigned words of some self-seeking persons, who having a shew of godlineis, (yet deny the power thereof) do (*Babel-like*) endeavour to rear up to themselves everlasting tabernacles, and cry out, *The Temple of the Lord, The Temple of the Lord; The Law, the Law*. Whereas the true Temple of the Lord is this, To amend their covetous ways, and their unjust oppressive doings, To execute judgement between a man and his neighbour,



hour, and not to oppress the poor, the widow, the fatherless, nor the stranger, but to let all the oppressed & enslaved go free: Nor to think, by tything Mist and Cummin, to fulfil the law of God, as those several hypocrites, the Doctors, Lawyers, Scribes and Pharisees did; against whom (instead of a blessing) there stands upon record for ever sundry terrible Woes denounced by him who is King of kings, and Lord of life and glory, and who assuredly will, by the sacred Rule of impartial justice, judge them according to their works.

There is a Word, which is clothed with death; the Lord grant it be not found in the heritage of *Jacob*. Sometimes to abide in the shade, produceth more quiet to a poor man, then to have the bright beams of the Princes favour to break forth upon him: for then Malice is forthwith enraged; Wrath like a Fury assaulteth, and Revenge like a Crocodile (when seeming to weep over him) destroys him most, in his credit, life, and good name; never ceasing (both by himself, and all those by him seasoned for his ends) to traduce and backbite him daily, thereby rendering him odious to the best of men.

Like

Like those subtil Serpentine generations of men, who by lyes and slanders, and by the power of some by them then seasoned for the work, defrauded me of my right, which, by his Highness favour was most freely conferred on me; and who also since have not ceased to traduce, backbite, and slander me to those in high place and Authority, hoping thereby to make their deeds of darkness to resemble the light and truth, in the sight of his Highness and others. But to all such shadows of Christians I shall say but this, That their Consciences (if they have any) cannot but testify to their faces that they have done me much wrong: *The Lord rebuke them for it.* And this I was told long since, that if his Highness had not appeared so vigorously for me in that, and another business since that, I had neither undergone those calumnies and reproaches, nor had my endeavours proved so fruitless as hitherto they have done to me. This duly weighed, it cannot but be positively concluded, That although those slanderous and reproachful arrows were shot at the lowe stub, yet the venom of them

them was intended to hit the tall Cedar, which by his branches of favour was pleased to shelter the lowe shrub.

For at that very instant time, the better to set a face of credit upon their slanders, and to carry on their designe of defeating me of my right, they by their instruments divulged it abroad in the City, and to divers Parliament-men, that I had forswore my self three times in one day before his Highness and the Councel, and that they had adjudged me to stand in the Pillory at the Exchange. This was related with such a face of truth, as that divers of my friends were happily deceived, in going to the Exchange to be spectators of it.

Whereas the real truth is, that I was never called before his Highness nor Councel to swear at any time, for any matter, cause, or thing whatsoever: for the truth whereof, I humbly appeal to his Highness and to the honorable Councel; most humbly praying for justice on these traducers, and satisfaction for these injuries most wrongfully sustained.

But not resting in the centre of these their calumnies, they or their instruments do still persist by under-hand plottings to accom-

accomplish my destruction, and by raising of a lye against me, rob me of my livelyhood : and at the same time, in a most secret manner, spread a rumour in the City, that I should conspire against my Lord Protector's life : A thing so horrid, so detestable to my soul, and so far from the thoughts of my heart, as the Crystalline Sphere can possibly be in distance from the earth.

And this clearly appeareth, by my constancie from the beginning, to the cause of God, faithfulness to his Highness, and services performed for the State.

The first was, my discovery of the late King's intention to surprise *Hull* and *Plymouth*, by private Letters sent out of *Holland* to Sir *Harbottle Grimston* and Mr. *Samuel Vassel*, then members of Parliament: by means whereof, the Parliament and Nation were preserved from the universal ruine determined, in 1641.

The second was, my discovery of the first Rebellion in *Kent*.

For both which, I never to this day received one peny, as a recompence or reward, from any.

And



And what my fidelity, and many yeers  
 cruel sufferings, have been, for Parliament  
 and Army, and in especial to his Highness,  
 is well known to thousands in the City  
 and Countries, and manifested by the se-  
 veral Tractates written and printed by me  
 in defence of the Cause, and of his High-  
 ness honour; even at that time also, when  
 black-mouth'd envious Infamy had open-  
 ed her mouth wide against him: from  
 which I shall never vary, nor cease to vin-  
 dicate his honour in the way of God:  
 wishing from my soul, that all men were  
 even as I am; which is so far from a sting,  
 wishing, or thinking any hurt to him or  
 his, as that I shall spend my life, and be  
 ready to be spent for him; yea, although  
 he should suffer me to be overwhelmed  
 with sorrow, penury, and the raging pow-  
 er of my slanderous adversaries.

For the real truth of all which, I ap-  
 peal to the searcher of all hearts, who  
 knows that I lye not, and to whose sa-  
 cred hand of justice and mercy I refer my  
 adversaries; concluding with David's  
 words: *Plead my cause, O Lord, with*  
*them that strive with me: Fight thou against*  
*them that fight against me; and, From*  
*evi<sup>r</sup>*

evil and deceitful men. O Lord deliver me.

For they that work evil, shall be wrapped up in evil. Slander and reproach proceed from the proud in heart; but vengeance lurketh for them as a lion: yea, Anguish shall consume them before they die, and they shall be taken in the same snare.

The tongue of the hypocrite destroyeth his neighbour by lying words; yea, he worketh deceitfully without ceasing; (I with this Age hath not brought forth many such monsters) who bend their tongues like a bowe for lyes, and take great pains to do wickedly.

Witness the numberless number of backbiters, false accusers, Knights of the Post, forgers of Deeds, tormentors of poor men and women by frequent vexatious Arrests, Imprisonments, and tedious Suits in Law, of Ten, Twenty, Thirty, or Forty yeers continuance.

I cannot but with grief of heart confess, that we live in the very last of times, wherein Malice lurketh, Revenge rageth, Cruelty sucketh the vital blood of the poor, Envie suffereth not the poor to live,

live; Oppression slayeth the needy; the poor is despised of his neighbour, his faithfulness contemned, and his services not regarded, (if he be not armed with the spirit of boldness, impudence, and base flattery) as many are, who have thrived best, and prevailed most, since these distracted times, and have made great gain by the bare profession of Godliness, but of true godliness small gain to themselves, (in the practical part thereof.)

Some such are they, who have troubled me, perplexed me, persecuted me, defrauded me, and endeavoured to destroy me, by lying words. The Lord in mercy forgive them, and give them hearts to walk more answerably to their profession, and preserve his Highness from being deceived and deluded by any such Vipers.

It was the approved wisdom of that famous Emperour *Rorice*, Not to trust any reconciled Enemy, nor to intrust them in any place of power, nor to credit any their Blemishes and Odiums in secret cast upon any of approved fidelity to his person.

This Rule produced peace and safety

to him, but confusion to his enemies, and to all their *Machavilian* plots and enterprises against him.

On the other hand, Credulity, and Security, and favouring of reconciled enemies, was the destruction of that Heroick Spirit *Demetrius* the Emperour, who by their Flatteries lulling him asleep in their treacherous Cradle of Security, made thereby his Friends appear to him to be his Foes, and themselves (that were his mortal Enemies) to be his onely Friend, by his confining of his ear unto them.

An eminent Example we have for this, in the late King, who upon the competition between the Spanish and French Faction of his Council, granted the pre-eminence to the Spanish Faction, as to *Cant*, *Arund*, *Cott*, *Wind*, and others, by confining his ear solely to them; which proved his confusion. For, the Plot being laid long before, by the Pope and Jesuites, to make the King of Spain  
UNIVERSAL KING, these *Machiavels* knew no surer way to accomplish this, then in rendering the King odious



to the people, by multiplying of Taxes, and countenancing the several Judges in their corrupt practices. The Bishops, by the High-Commission-Court, new invented Orders in their Churches, and the Oath *Ex Officio*. Putting the King also upon requiring Knighthood-money, Ship-money, the Forests, and others of that nature: being confident, that this would move the people (by them called Hereticks) to rebel, and so cut the throats one of another; and thus the Catholikes might but stand by, and laugh at their destruction; and then the King of *Spain* with much facility might of *England* and *Ireland* gain the possession: which done, the *Netherlands* would soon follow, and *France* also be brought into subjection.

How far they prevailed in this their hellish Plot, I appeal to all knowing persons: and what good the Lord produced to this Nation out of evil by them intended, is manifest at this day.

The Lord perfect this his Work of Mercy to us, by granting us the assurance  
D 2 of

(44)

of his love and favour in Jesus Christ;  
which cannot but produce honour to his  
Highness, and peace and happiness to this  
Nation: Which is the hearty desire of

Your faithful friend  
and servant in the Lord,

*J. F.*



*POST.*



## POSTSCRIPT.

For the help and enabling of all poor oppressed creatures, that are not able to wage Law, or to undergo the chargeable corrupt practice thereof for recovery of their Rights;

**T**hat his Highness would be pleased to cause a Proclamation or Declaration to be made thorowout the whole Nation, thereby declaring that all Decrees made against any person or persons, in any Court of Justice or Equity, without hearing of the party, or Counsel for him, upon the making thereof, being contrary to the Laws and Statutes of this Nation, shall become void. And that those Judges that be living, of them which made the said Decrees, shall answer and pay unto the party damnified thereby, his full loss and damage sustained by reason thereof, within certain days to be limited, after Oath made of the demand thereof: and upon failure therein, that then an Extent to issue of course, without any circuit of Action or Suit at Law against the said unjust Judge or Judges their estates both real and personal; and then

to pay double damages for their said failer. And that the said Proclamation or Declaration shall be a sufficient warrant to any Sheriffs or Officers whatsoever to levie all such money as shall appear to be due for the reasons aforesaid: any Statute, Law, or Ordinance to the contrary heretofore made, in any wise notwithstanding.

And whosoever hath illegally, in the time of a prisoners restraint, intruded and gotten into the possession of any of his lands or goods, and received the profits thereof, & converted them unto his or their own use, and do still unjustly detain them: If any such person or persons do not (after so many days limited as aforesaid) upon demand deliver the possession of the said Lands quietly unto the parties so wronged, or unto such as he shall appoint, with all the profits thereof, and goods by him or them, or any of them, so taken away, That then to restore fourfold: and for such as have no estates to give satisfaction, may receive corporal punishment.

The Law of England being a Law of mercy and preservation, and not as it's now in the practice thereof become a Law of rigour and destruction to the people; therefore it is further humbly prayed,

1. That none may be arrested nor imprisoned for debt, but that after three several citations, the



the debtor not appearing, judgment to pass, and execution on his estate. This will make all men cautious of running into debt, and others wary whom they trust. Whereby Trade will flourish as in Germany, Holland, Flanders, & other parts of the world. It will preserve Gentlemens heirs from being ruined (before they can possess their estates) by Usurers, Brokers, and Extortioners, as thousands have been.

2. That all Cheaters, and ~~fraud~~ <sup>fraud</sup>-like, may walk with their nostrills still, instead of a crooked ear; as in Germany, Russia, &c.

3. That none may be put to death for theft, it being consonant to the law of God.

3. That all Wastes and Commons may be equally divided among the poor of each Parish.

5. That all groundage at sea may be abolished, goods imbezelled to be restored freely to the owners. In which act of justice and mercy, Turks and Pagans surpass us far at present.

6. That the Norman power (ad Conquestum) being at a period, therefore all Villanage, Vassalage, Fines, and Heriots, to be abolished, together with Court-Leets and Barons.

7. All controversies to be determined by three men in every Hundred & Town-Corporate (and those to be changed yearly) with freedom of appeal to the Provincial Court, for any act of injustice by them passed in judgement.

8. That

8. That a Register be kept in every County, for the sale of lands, leases, houses, and farms; and all private sales to be accounted illegal.

9. That the yeerly progress of the Prince may now again be founded on its original basis, as in the days of K. Alfred, viz. to see justice have its free and clear current thorowout the Land without respect of persons.

These nine particulars not varying much from the Armies Petition of July 14. 1649. will I hope finde a favourable acceptation from him, on whom the Lord hath now conferred the power of all at preient, and hath I hope set him over us for good, and not for evil; though the Royal party backbite him, and speak evil of him daily, wishing and plotting his destruction, and the destruction of all that love him, and adhere unto him. But that sacred mighty power which hitherto hath kept him safe, will still preserve him, causing his mercies to flourish on him, maugre all those that hate him, If he do the work of the Lord thorowly and faithfully.



FINIS.

E. 1485.  
PROPHECY 3

MAINTAIN'D:

986

O R,

A Vindication of the Ad-  
vertisement to the City  
of LONDON.

Wherein are contained the Life,  
Religion, and sundry Visions  
of the Author.

Together with severall Objections  
mov'd and Answer'd.

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By F R A: V V I L D E.

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I JOHN 4. I.

*Try the Spirits, whether they are of God.*

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Ortob: 7 L O N D O N,

Printed in the Yeare, 1 6 5 4.